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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

MCNIE ET AL.

Atty. Ref.: 124-1144

Appl. No. Unknown

TC/A.U. Unknown

Filed: January 19, 2006

Examiner: Unknown

For: VARIABLE OPTICAL ATTENUATOR

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January 19, 2006

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend as follows: